



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Murder After DUI Crash on Freeway

A 24-year-old man accused of driving drunk and crashing into another vehicle, resulting in the death of an elderly woman, pleaded not guilty today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Juan Gabriel Rios (dob 7/22/90) of Perris was charged with five felonies: murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage causing injury, driving with a .08% blood alcohol content causing injury and hit and run driving resulting in death or serious injury to another person in case KA108315.

The charging document also includes a special allegation that the defendant personally inflicted great bodily injury during the commission of the crime.

Deputy District Attorney Lauren Guber, who is prosecuting the case, said in the late evening of Nov. 7, Rios was reportedly driving drunk when he attempted to enter the 10 Freeway and crashed into another vehicle near the Rosemead exit.

The victims, an elderly couple from Rosemead, were hospitalized after the incident. However, the wife, Kit Ching Leung, ultimately succumbed to her injuries.

Following the collision, the defendant's vehicle went down an embankment and Rios allegedly fled the scene. Authorities were called and they soon located the defendant and arrested him in connection with the crash.

Rios is expected to return to the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Pomona, Department N on Feb. 4 to schedule a date for his preliminary hearing. The defendant currently remains in custody on \$1.1 million bail.

If convicted as charged, he faces a maximum sentence of 24 years to life in state prison.

This case is being investigated by the California Highway Patrol.

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[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety.